RURAL DISTRICT of BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

SURVEYOR

for the Year

1955

DANIEL H. WALDRON
JOHN C. SHARPE

List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

Addington
Adstock
Akeley
Barton Hartshorne
Beachampton
Biddlesden
Charndon
Chetwode
Edgcott
Foscott
Hillesden
Leckhampstead
Lillingstone Dayrell
Lillingstone Lovell
Luffield Abbey
Maids Moreton
Marsh Gibbon
Middle Claydon
Padbury
Poundon
Preston Bissett
Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Shalstone
Steeple Claydon
Stowe
Thornborough
Thornton
Tingewick
Turweston
Twyford
Water Stratford
Westbury

1955

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council :

A. POWELL, ESQ.

General Purposes Committee :

Chairman :

W. DURRANT, ESQ.

Members :

W. G. Beckett, Esq.
Mrs. K. D. Benfield
C. Bryant, Esq.
S. M. Cotton, Esq.
Mrs. S. M. Crook.
Col. R. H. Doyne.
Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue.
W. E. Good, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. H. Heywood-Lonsdale
A. Hodges, Esq.
P. J. Hodges, Esq.
T. S. Mitchinson, Esq.
Capt. G. Robarts.
Mrs. M. M. Spiers.
D. A. Stewart, Esq.
F. Tofield, Esq.
W. F. Wood, Esq.

A. Powell, Esq. and W. Durrant, Esq.
ex officio members

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.)
(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :
J. C. SHARPE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy :
K. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :
E. H. BARNETT, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
(commenced 1.6.55)

Administrative Assistant :
C. H. BRAY.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
School Lane,
Buckingham.

12*th July*, 1956.

To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The Birth Rate continues at a high level, and is 3.8 points higher than that for the rest of the Country.

The Death Rate also maintains a satisfactory low level, being 4 points lower than the rate for the Country. Cancer, and Heart and Allied Diseases, accounted for 60 of the total of 85 deaths.

Another satisfactory note is struck in the Infantile Mortality Rate. The previous year gave us the high figure of 56.6 per 1,000 births but this has now dropped to 19.7, compared with 24.9 for the rest of the Country.

In the realm of Infectious Disease, there were a total of 169 cases notified, as against 39 the previous year. 146 of the cases were due to measles, which continued from May to the end of the year. Cases were fairly general throughout the District. One case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified. It is heartening to report that at last a positive measure against this disease has emerged in the form of the new ' Polio Vaccine.' This vaccine, which had been extensively tried in the United States, Canada, South Africa and Germany, was at last given the blessing of the Ministry of Health and permission for its production and use in this Country was given.

Production was started so recently that only a limited amount of the vaccine was available for use before the beginning of what we now term the ' Polio Season ' i.e. from July to late Autumn. However, we were promised that by May 1956 a limited amount would be available for the North Bucks area and at the time of writing, 26 children in the Buckingham District have had the benefit of inoculation.

We have been promised larger supplies in the late Autumn of 1956 and it is hoped that in time to come everybody will have the opportunity of receiving the benefit of this protection against a disease, the epidemiolgy of which still puzzles Public Health Authorities.

I should like to record another year of happy co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
DANIEL H. WALDRON.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics

	1954	1955
Area (in acres)	54,543	54,543
Population	10,180	10,160
Number of Inhabited Houses ..	2,724	2,741
Rateable Value	£43,236	£43,708
Rate per £	24/4	24/6
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£164 (est.)	£171/13/9
Births :		
Legitmate—Males ..	73	78
,, Females ..	82	67
Illegitimate—Males ..	2	5
,, Females ..	2	2
Birth rate per 1,000 population	19.5	18.8
Do. (Bucks)	15.6	15.4
Do. (England & Wales)	15.2	15.0
Deaths—Males	45	45
,, Females	46	40
Death rate per 1,000 population	8.1	7.7
Do. (Bucks)	9.5	9.8
Do. (England & Wales)	11.3	11.7
Maternal Mortality Rate ..	Nil	Nil
Do. (England & Wales)	0.47	0.64
Infantile Mortality :		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
per 1,000 live births ..	56.6	19.7
Ditto for Bucks ..	22.4	20.0
Ditto for England & Wales	25.5	24.9
Still Births	3	1

Principal Causes of Death :	1954			1955		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	10	8	18	9	7	16
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	6	6	12	3	7	10
Heart Disease	7	10	17	17	13	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6	2	2	4
Bronchitis	2	3	5	2	0	2
Pneumonia	1	2	3	0	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	1	0	1	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	0	0	0	2	2
Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	5	5	1	0	1
Violence	2	2	4	5	1	6
All other Causes	11	7	18	4	6	10
Totals	45	46	91	45	40	85

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantative analysis had to be sent to London.

2. Ambulance Services.

This service, administered by the County Health Department, is now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with a sub-station in Bletchley to cover the North Bucks Area. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

3. Nursing Facilities.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

4. Clinics.

(*a*) *Child Welfare Centres.* There are five static Welfare Centres serving the District, located as follows :

Buckingham (twice monthly)	Twyford (once monthly)
Steeple Claydon (do.)	Winslow (twice monthly)
Thornborough (once monthly)	

The work of the Mobile Welfare Unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Charndon.	Maids Moreton.
Beachampton.	Dadford.	Preston Bissett.
Calvert.	Leckhampstead.	Tingewick.
Chackmore.	Lillingstone Dayrell.	

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each Session, and a Medical Officer attended once monthly. Immunization against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

was carried out at all centres. During the year attendances by children totalled 1869.

Once again I should like to pay tribute to the good work done at these Clinics by the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committees.

(*b*) *Chest Clinic.*—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(*c*) *Orthopaedic Clinic.*—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

5. Hospitals.

The following Hospitals served the area during the year :—

Buckingham Hospital.
Aylesbury Group.
Oxford Group.
Northampton Group.
Creaton Sanatorium.
Peppard Sanatorium.

6. Domestic Help Service.

The service instituted under the National Health Service is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

During the year 57 cases were assisted.

7. Ineducable Children.

In a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health on the above subject, he states :—

"For your information the training scheme for mental defectives in the Buckingham area is administered by the Bucks Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare on behalf of the County Council. A part-time

group training centre held in the Old Poor Law Institution at Buckingham on Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. had 10 mental defectives on the roll at the end of the year including one out-of-county case. Mid-day meals are taken at the Centre as part of the training and transport is provided for the children attending. The hours of the group have now been extended from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on Monday to Friday and from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

" Home tuition is provided for four defectives not suitable to attend the group and the Department's Occupational Therapists visit a number of cases in their homes as required."

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

The Foxcote Treatment Plant continued to operate throughout the year and the average daily quantity of water supplied from these works during 1955 was 1,114,000 gallons, as compared with an average of 850,000 gallons per day at the end of the previous year.

Work on the Foxcote Reservoir commenced during April and will be completed before the end of next year. This reservoir is being contructed in order to provide storage capacity against the times when the flow in the River Great Ouse is too low to permit the Bucks Water Board's full requirements being abstracted.

During the year the Board laid new mains as follows :

Padbury	80 yards
Westbury	85 ,,
Foxcote Reservoir ...	859 ,,
Akeley	509 ,,
Total	1,533 ,,

The first two extensions were to meet housing needs, the second two to meet agricultural requirements.

In addition to the mains extensions listed above, the following length of main were laid by the Board as replacements :—

Chetwode	1,250 yards
Barton Hartshorne ...	325 ,,
Steeple Claydon ...	350 ,,
Addington	743 ,,
Total	2,668 ,,

Main Supply.

(*a*) Quantity—Satisfactory.

(*b*) Quality—Satisfactory.

(*c*) Samples taken from the supply (which fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) 2

(*d*) Number of dwelling houses on supply ... 2487

(*e*) Estimated number of population served ... 9787

Other Sources.

(*a*) Samples taken 12

(*b*) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 11
(in all cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Nine Years.

Year	*No. of Samples taken and examined*	*Result*	
		Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*
1947	7	–	7
1948	19	7	12
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
1953	7	3	4
1954	12	4	8
1955	12	1	11
Totals	85	26	59
		69.41% unsatisfactory.	

2. Rivers and Streams.

The streams and water courses in a number of villages are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and in dry weather a number of them consist almost entirely of sewage and whilst every effort with

the available resources is made to keep them cleaned out, the pollution increases from year to year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes will obviate much of the pollution in the receiving streams but early abatement of the nuisances appears to be unlikely because of financial difficulties and Government restrictions on capital expenditure. No doubt the pollution in the streams will progressively get worse.

3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Progress was made on the Marsh Gibbon Scheme and by the end of the year the contract was 76% completed. The majority of the pipe work to pick up points of pollution was practically completed and the construction of the disposal works was proceeding satisfactorily. It is hoped that the scheme will be in operation in the early part of 1956.

The extension of the Tingewick Sewage Disposal Works necessitated by the overloading of the Works by sewage from the adjacent Army Camp, was approved by the Minister, and after further negotiation with the War Department and the Treasury, work commenced during the month of May.

The works extension comprises the construction of two sedimentation tanks, storm water tank, humus tank, percolating filter, together with two sludge drying beds, and by the end of the year the contract was 56% completed. It is hoped that the final completion of the contract will be effected towards the middle of 1956.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government advised the Council that the Akeley, Adstock and Padbury Schemes might be put in hand early in the financial year 1956-57 and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed accordingly. A further communication was received from the Ministry, late in the year, stating that following a further review of the rural sewerage schemes awaiting execution, the Minister was prepared during the present financial year to authorize the execution of the schemes for Adstock

and Padbury. Application was subsequently made for the Akeley Scheme to be included with that for Adstock and Padbury and the Minister agreed to this course of action.

Trial holes to ascertain the nature of the subsoil were taken out in the three parishes as part of the preparatory work. Samples of the subsoil and of the subsoil water were submitted for analysis.

The Council discussed the question of sewerage and sewage disposal in various parishes in the district and as a result, the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to carry out a survey and report on the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal, together with approximate costs, in the following parishes :—

Beachampton.	Maids Moreton.	Turweston.
Edgcott.	Preston Bissett.	Water Stratford.
Lillingstone Lovell.	Shalstone.	Westbury.

The Steeple Claydon, Chackmore and Thornborough works continue to give satisfaction and works of maintenance on the sewers and disposal sites have again been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

During the latter part of the year, samples of sewage effluent were taken from the Steeple Claydon and Thornborough Works and submitted to the Public Analyst. The Analyst's report indicated that both were good samples of effluent apart from a slight yellow discolouration. In the case of the effluent from Thornborough Works, the report indicated that the suspended solids were on the high side and efforts were made to improve the effluent by adjustments to the rate of flow through the works and more frequent cleansing of the humus tank.

The work of maintenance on sewage disposal works is steadily increasing and with the near completion of the Marsh Gibbon Scheme and the Tingewick Extension, authority was given to engage additional labour as and when the schemes came into operation.

4. Water Closets.

Four conversions to the water carriage system have

been carried out by the Council during the year. Private individuals have done work of this nature to various properties.

5. Public Cleansing.

The monthly kerbside collection of household refuse continued to operate throughout the year, although difficulty was experienced in maintaining the collection schedule due to the increase in the amount of refuse collected and to the frequent breakdown of the vehicle. During the earlier part of the year it became necessary to hire transport whilst the refuse vehicle was under repair, and this was not an easy matter as most of the haulage contractors were fully engaged.

The Council gave consideration to a report on the additional time and labour that would be involved in collecting refuse from the rear of the premises as opposed to the present system whereby the containers are placed on the road-side verges. The question of the desirability of a fortnightly collection was raised but on the grounds of expense the Council decided to adhere to the present monthly collection.

In order to reduce the village to tip journeys and thereby assist in maintaining the present schedule of collection, the Council decided to purchase a larger capacity vehicle. Demonstrations of two well known vehicles were held and as a result an order was placed for the purchase of a Dennis Paxit II, 18 cubic yard capacity. Delivery will be made early in the next financial year 1956-57.

A disused claypit at the Calvert Works of the London Brick Company continues to be used as a tip for all refuse. This tip is one which will last for a number of years and every effort was made during the year to keep the tip in a presentable condition, but this proved difficult with the small labour force available and no mechanical aids. Regular inspection and treatment for rodents was given and during the summer months frequent spraying with insecticides was carried out to prevent fly nuisance.

Cesspool and septic tank emptying continues to be carried out by contract and this has been executed in a satisfactory manner. All such tanks are cleansed every four months.

The total income for the year from the sale of waste paper, scrap iron and other salvaged materials was £105 10s. 5d., which was an increase of £26 4s. 8d. over the year 1954. The prices of waste paper and scrap iron increased slightly during the year but it is uneconomic to make special collections for this purpose.

6. Schools.

Some improvements were carried out in connection with the modernisation of sanitary arrangements but a number of village schools are still in possession of the old lavatory bucket system.

7. Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but an adjacent Public School gives facilities for the use of their private pool to rural residents during the out of term time. This pool is part of an existing lake, sited within the School grounds.

The adjacent Borough of Buckingham opened a new swimming pool early in the year and this is used by rural residents.

8. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction.

Work during the year by the Rodent Operative has again been satisfactory and was carried out without the necessity of invoking statutory actions.

Work of Inspection and Control.

(*a*)	Number of Complaints received ...	99
(*b*)	Number of Properties inspected and visits carried out	2376
(*c*)	Number of Properties found infested with rats	180

(*d*) Number of Properties found infested with mice 18

10. General Survey of Inspections and Visits During the Year.

The general work of the department, including day to day inspections, has been well maintained. The accent during the year has been on the maintaining of 100% meat inspection service, the inspection of properties for the Slum Clearance Programme, together with the preparation of drawings, schedules, reports and costing of repairs, building byelaws inspections, including drain testing, housing work in relation to Improvement Grants and work in connection with the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Marsh Gibbon.

In order to maintain an efficient sanitary inspection service, the Council increased the establishment of the Department, by engaging an additional Sanitary Inspector, who commenced his duties on June 1st.

Most of the activities of the Health Department increased considerably during the year, the work alone on Improvement Grants having increased approximately 100%. The amount of time spent on refuse collection and disposal also increased, due to the necessity to obtain details for the Council's consideration regarding alterations in collection methods, the demonstration and purchase of a new vehicle together with new garage accommodation.

New legislation regarding Food and Drugs came into force at the end of the year, chiefly in regard to food hygiene and it is anticipated that considerable activity in this field will take place during the coming year. The new Regulations take the place of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and on construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., where food is handled. The Regulations lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of premises, apparatus and equipment,

handling of food, the cleanliness of persons and clothing, the construction, repair and maintenance of premises and the temperature at which certain foods are to be kept.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1955 is appended below :—

Total Number of Premises visited	3322
Complaints received	38
Informal Notices served	98
Statutory Notices served	3

Factories Acts 1937—1948.

The table below shews the position during 1955, as far as work places and factories are concerned and the inspections made for purposes as to health and sanitation :—

Premises	*Number on Register*	*Number of Inspections*	*Written Notices*	*Occupier prosecuted*
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	16	24	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	17	24	—	—

Only one outworker was notified in accordance with Section 110 of Part VIII of the 1937 Act and after inspection this person was found to be engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Tents, Vans and Moveable Dwellings.

All the sites were inspected during the year and found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition :—

Number licensed	7
Number of inspections	24
Nuisances found to exist	2

Drainage.

A considerable amount of repairs and renewals to house drainage as well as drainage to new premises was supervised by the staff. I am of the opinion that good progress has been made during the last few years towards good drainage to house property. Owners in villages where main sewerage has been provided have come forward very readily to connect their properties to the sewer. The Council's policy in providing a lateral drain free of charge providing the premises are connected thereto within 12 months of the completion of the scheme, is a good one, besides giving an incentive to the owner it ensures that all road re-instatement is carried out at the same time.

Number of New drains examined	108
Number of visits for that purpose	246
Number of W.C.'s installed	97
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed	81

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928—1936.

It is obvious that the time is fast approaching when a certain amount of re-testing of petroleum tanks will have to be carried out, as quite a number of tanks in existence are over twenty years old. Installations over this age are liable to rapid deterioration and it is the accepted practice to carry out periodical pressure tests and inspections to such installations.

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1955 :	
500 gallons or less	26
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	9
Over 1,000 gallons	4
Total licences issued	39
One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year.	
Number of inspections or tests carried out ...	30

Infectious Diseases.

Enquiries in cases of infectious disease ...	6
Number of visits re disinfection	2

Housing and Building Byelaws.

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	11
Number of Plans deposited for other works	93
Visits in connection with Building Byelaws	545

Other Classified Visits.

Housing visits in connection with conversion and improvement	174
Housing visits under the Housing Acts ...	801
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts	49
Visits re water supply	59
Visits re drainage and sewerage	365
Visits re refuse collection	15
Visits re refuse disposal	75
Visits in connection with sewage disposal ...	249
Schools	7
General nuisances	28
Overcrowding	1
Accumulation of refuse	Nil
Foul ditches and ponds	26
Visits to shops	133
Unclassified	46
Stables and Piggeries	2

SECTION D.

Housing

The total number of Council houses erected post war is now 347. The rate of progress during the year increased over that of the previous year. The figures for the two years being 28 and 12 respectively. By the end of the year 25 houses were under construction as compared with 32 the previous year.

Erection of Post War Council House up to December 1955

Parish	*Houses*	*Bungalows*	*Total Completed*	*UnderConstruction*
Adstock	12	—	12	—
Akeley	16	—	16	—
Beachampton	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden	4	—	4	—
Charndon	6	—	6	—
Chetwode	4	—	4	—
Edgcott	8	—	8	—
Hillesden	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibbon	24	—	24	—
Middle Claydon	4	—	4	—
Padbury	30	—	30	—
Poundon	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett	12	—	12	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon... ...	52	39	91	—
Thornborough	18	—	18	—
Thornton	4	—	4	—
Tingewick	33	10	43	13
Turweston	6	—	6	—
Twyford	6	—	6	12
Westbury	17	—	17	—
Total	298	49	347	25

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1955 28

Total number of houses built and owned by the Authority 642

Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to December 1955

Parish	*Houses*	*Bungalows*	*Total Completed*	*Under Construction*
Akeley	1	2	3	1
Adstock	2	1	3	—
Beachampton	4	—	4	—
Biddlesden	5	—	5	—
Charndon	2	10	12	—
Hillesden	2	—	2	—
Leckhampstead	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton	4	—	4	—
Marsh Gibbon	4	3	7	1
Padbury	6	—	6	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	3	—	3	—
Steeple Claydon	1	2	3	3
Stowe	14	—	14	3
Thornborough	2	2	4	—
Thornton	—	—	—	1
Tingewick	1	3	4	—
Turweston	2	1	3	—
Water Stratford	—	1	1	—
Westbury	6	1	7	—
Total	60	27	87	9

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1955 8

Substantial progress has been made regarding inspection of properties listed for action in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

Detailed work on reports, valuations and the checking and amending of preliminary drawings, has been carried out and as soon as information is available as to the Council's intentions regarding a re-housing programme, final representations can be made and interested parties notified. Quite naturally, the number of houses to be dealt with by way of the first year programme will have to be geared to the rate of re-building and it is hoped that the Council's building programme

for 1956 will be largely the re-housing of persons living in unsanitary houses.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Five Year Programme

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN BY DECEMBER 1955.

Parish	*No. of Unfit Houses in Slum Clearance Programme*	*Action Taken*		
		Demolished	*Closed*	*Represented and under consideration*
Adstock	8			
Barton Hartshorne	1			1
Charndon ...	6			
Hillesden	4			
Maids Moreton ...	11			
Marsh Gibbon ...	6			
Padbury	8		2	
Preston Bissett ...	14			
Steeple Claydon ...	1			
Thornborough ...	9			2
Tingewick	8			
Turweston ...	3			
Twyford	12			
Water Stratford ...	5			
Totals ...	96	—	2	3

Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.

Parish	*Number of Houses*	*Number still occupied*
Akeley ...	6	3
Beachampton	3	3
Stowe ...	7	7
Tingewick ...	2	2

Five of the houses included in the above table are licensed for temporary occupation under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. The current licences expire on 30th August 1957 and after that date action will have to be taken to demolish the properties in accordance with the Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister. This not only applies to the houses under licence but also to the rest of the houses included in the above table.

Inspection and Action During the Year.

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	7
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation	Nil
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	2
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	Nil
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Closing Order was made	1
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which action was deferred	4

Overcrowding.

One case of overcrowding was investigated during the year.

Improvement Grants.

The publicity in the National Press as to financial assistance available to property owners to carry out the improvement and modernisation of houses, as well as conversion schemes, resulted in a 100% increase in the number of applications received during the year.

Twenty-five applications for grant were made, of which 21 received approval, and the maximum grant of 50% was recommended in each case.

The total grant aid approved during the year amounted to £6,856. 0. 0.—an average of approximately £254 per house.

Applications made for Grant during 1955

Parish	*Number of Houses to be improved*	
	Approved be Council	*To be considered*
Akeley	1	1
Biddlesden	2	
Chetwode	—	5
Marsh Gibbon	4	
Middle Claydon ...	7	
Padbury	3	
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	1	
Steeple Claydon ...	1	
Stowe	1	
Thornborough	2	
Turweston	2	
Westbury	3	
Total	27	6

Total Number of applications for grants approved by the Council to December 31st, 1955 ... 38

Total amount of grant aid approved by the Council to December 31st, 1955 ... £12,792 18. 3d.

Housing General.

Finmere Camp.—The Council continued its policy of re-housing the occupants of Finmere Camp and the subsequent demolition of the individual huts. It is hoped that the whole Camp will be demolished early in the coming year and the site de-requisitioned.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority brought to light the existence of brucella abortus on fourteen farms. As far as brucella abortus is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

Number of Distributors on Register	7
Inspections	11

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested "	10
" Pasteurised "	6

The whole of the District was included in a Milk (Special Designation Specified Areas) Order which came into force in March. It is now illegal for any person to sell by retail for human consumption, any milk other than milk which can be sold as special designated milk. As a result of this Order coming into force, 12 new applications have been made for licences under the Milk Special Designations Regulations 1949.

Ice Cream

Total number of retailers on register	26
New applications received and licences granted	5
Inspections	16

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provision Grade	I	5
Do.	II	Nil
Do.	III	Nil
Do.	IV	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

Meat and Slaughterhouses.

During the year, the Council issued five licences permitting the use of premises as private slaughterhouses. It was necessary to do this to ensure that adequate facilities for slaughtering were available. Each of the premises granted licences were brought up to a good standard. The return to private slaughtering has made considerable demands on the Department for the purpose of inspection of meat but I am pleased to report that during the year 100% inspection was carried out.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part :

	Cattle excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Horses*
Number killed ...	105	7	3	749	269	—
Number inspected	105	7	3	749	269	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	3	—	43	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	24.76	42.86	—	5.74	4.09	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which No. some part or organ was condemned	4	2	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.76	28.57	—	—	2.23	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Parts or Organs condemned are classified as follows :

	Beef	*Pork*	*Mutton*	*Total*
Whole Carcase	1	—	—	1
Plucks	1	2	1	4
Livers	30	9	33	72
Heads and Tongues ...	4	—	—	4
Hearts	1	—	1	2
Lungs	7	1	6	14
Part carcase	2	—	2	4
Miscellaneous	1	7	—	8

Approximate total weight 14¼ cwts.

Visits to slaughterhouses	289
Visits to Butchers' shops	132
Number of licensed slaughtermen	15

Knackers Yards.

Consideration was given by the Council to the erection of a knackers yard within their area and it was agreed that providing the resultant premises conformed to the required standard, a licence should be issued. Formal application will be made for this purpose during the coming year.

The Council gave consideration to the adopting of byelaws in respect to the sanitary conditions, management and keeping of records for knackers yards and these were subsequently approved by the Council and confirmed by the Minister. The Byelaws come into operation on 1st day of February 1956.

Other Food.

During the year only one case of cysticercus bovis occurred in animals sent from this district for slaughtering. Investigations were subsequently made but no further evidence was forthcoming as to the probable source of infection.

Foods condemned during the year include the following :—

Tinned Brisket of Beef	10 lb.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Bakehouses

Number on register	4
Number of visits	8
Contravention of Regulations	1

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases

General

There was a total of 146 cases of measles notified during the year, starting in May and continuing until the end of the year. One case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified.

Notifications

Disease	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Measles	68	78	146
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	5	5	10
Pneumonia ...	3	5	8
Paratyphoid ...	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	1
Total ...	79	90	169

Cancer

There were 16 deaths from this disease during the year.

Tuberculosis

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year. Only three new cases were notified compared with 10 the previous year.

Daniel H. Waldron,
Medical Officer of Health.

John C. Sharpe,
Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Printed by
E. N. Hillier & Sons Ltd.
Buckingham